



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2373

regional transportation authority; membership; election

Prime Sponsor: Representative Shope, LD 8

DPA Committee on Rural and Economic Development

X Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

HB 2373 requires Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) members to be from the county that established the RTA and modifies requirements for adopting a new regional transportation plan.

PROVISIONS

RTA Membership

1. Requires members of a RTA that are part of the regional council of governments (COG) to be from the county that established the RTA.
2. Specifies that the executive director of a RTA serves at the discretion of the RTA board of directors (Board).
3. Requires members of the Board to be from the county that established the RTA.

Regional Transportation Plan Ballot Propositions

4. Specifies that if a proposed ballot proposition for a substantial transportation plan change is rejected by the voters, the previously approved regional transportation plan stays in place.
5. Clarifies that a *substantial change* means a change that resulted in estimated expenditures exceeding the greater of:
 - a. the estimated revenues by 10% or more; or
 - b. the original estimated revenue amount presented to the voters.
6. Stipulates that if a new regional transportation plan is approved by the voters, but the respective transaction privilege tax (TPT) is rejected, the plan is approved without the TPT.
 - a. Allows the Board to submit to the voters a subsequent TPT measure to fund the approved plan within 5 years of its approval.
 - i. If the TPT measure passes, the plan is implemented.

Miscellaneous

7. Requires a RTA Board, each fiscal year, to deposit the greater of \$300,000 or 1% of the revenues collected from the transportation excise tax in the construction account of the Regional Transportation Fund.
8. Contains a retroactive effective date of July 1, 2015.
9. Makes technical and conforming changes.

AMENDMENTS IN RURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Specifies that if a RTA TPT is approved by the voters, the levy and collection of the tax begins on the following April 1st and cannot be in effect for more than 20 years.

CURRENT LAW

A.R.S. Title 48, Chapter 30 authorizes a county with a population between 400,000 and 1.2 million persons to establish a RTA. A RTA is a public improvement and taxing subdivision of the state and a municipal corporation. The membership of the RTA includes the county, each municipality in the county and any other members of the regional COG and is governed by a board of directors.

A RTA is required to adopt a 20-year regional transportation plan outlining transportation corridors by priority and the schedule for construction projects. Adoption of the plan and a TPT to provide for its costs are contingent on approval of the voters in the county. The plan and its respective TPT are proposed as two separate questions to the voters. If either measure fails, both measures fail.